

News & Notes

August 11, 2009

**Complete Back-to-School
Information
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Kelly Was "Tweeting" 40 Years Ago!

West University Mayor Bob Kelly recently attended the T-37 Retirement Ceremony held at Sheppard AFB, Wichita Falls, Texas. Kelly flew the T-37, affectionately referred to by AF pilots as the "Tweet" due to its high pitched engine noise, while in pilot training at Reese AFB, Lubbock, Tex in 1966.

Kelly, seen in the photo standing next to the subsonic training jet, commented that the Tweet "was a very forgiving aircraft that was fun to fly and it helped provide for the defense of our Country for over 50 years by providing first class training for our American pilots".

West U. Library Book Club Resumes

West U. Library Book Club members will discuss "On Agate Hill," by Lee Smith, on Sept. 2, at 11 a.m. The club meets on the first Wednesday of every month at Senior Services, 6104 Auden. Call the West University Branch Library at (713) 668-8273 for more information. The Library is located at 6108 Auden.



Thunderbirds Win Tournament!

The 9-year old West U. Thunderbirds won the Westbury LL Summer Classic tournament on August 2. Team members include: back row- Ben Powitzky, Evan Hammerman, Ian Toubin, David Kleban, Matt Lopez; front row- Allie Schachter, Griffin Cowan, Coby Lowenstein, James Moskosky, Ryan Tiras; not pictured- Ben Blachman, Thomas Parks, David Brooks, Alexander Nevins, Drayton Prator, Wiley Rogers; Coaches- Marc Coles, Mark Toubin, Steve Hammerman, Ruben Lopez.

More Parking for McGovern Library

The City of Houston has approved design plans which will double the parking capacity at the McGovern-Stella Link Library.

Located at the corner of Stella Link and Aberdeen Way, the library sits adjacent to the current Houston Fire Department's Station 37, which will be torn down this fall after the completion of the new fire station at 7026 Stella Link.

Despite neighborhood concerns over the limited parking at the library, the old fire station lot was originally slated by the City to be used as a required detention area.

But Council Member Anne Clutterbuck met with library administration, City officials and neighborhood leaders to discuss design alternatives that would allow for greater parking availability at the library.

The modified design includes 47 additional parking spaces and will also include a flood water detention area at the rear of the lot.

"Since the McGovern Library opened in 2004, it has become one of the most visited branches in the City," said Clutterbuck. "It is a beautiful, modern facility and it is my hope that these parking improvements will allow even more people to enjoy

its services.

"I thank the City for recognizing the community's need and working to find a creative solution."

The expanded lot will be constructed after the new Fire Station 37 is completed and the old station is demolished.

The grand opening of the new fire station is tentatively scheduled for mid September.

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Council Members Will Take a Closer Look at West U.'s Employee Retirement Plan

By Ben Ballanfant

West University City Council reviewed the City's employee retirement fund Monday with Anthony Mills, a representative of the Texas Municipal Retirement Sys-

tem, concerned about the city's projected \$12.4 million underfunding in their TMRS fund.

Actuarial data has the city's \$16,731,413 current value estimated at 57.4 per-

cent of what the city needs in order to take care of it's retiring work force. The "short-fall" is a reflection of a change in how TMRS is calculating the city's liability. The city's new rate is being

phased in over the next eight years.

"There were basically two reasons that I wanted this an agenda items during the budget process," Mayor Bob

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Easing Your Child's Introduction to Kindergarten

By Melissa McDonald
UT Health Science
Center at Houston

As parents watch their child walk through the door to kindergarten for the first time, the backpack almost dwarfing the little body, the moment is bittersweet.

It may also include tears, and that's normal, experts say.

"It is not taboo for your child to cry. It's a normal emotion. The first day of kindergarten for your child can be exciting and a little bit scary," says John Gasko, Ph.D., director of state initiatives at the Children's Learning Institute at The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston.

So how do you know if your child is ready for this big step into kindergarten? Here are some clues to help ease parents' fears.

- Is my child comfort-

able with letters and the sounds they make?

- Are they familiar with books and can they pick out some of the words?

- Can they say and recognize numbers one to 20 and distinguish shapes?

Gasko says

it's very important for a parent to be engaged with the child's teacher.

"From day one, make sure they know about any difficulty your child may have, the experience in a school setting to-date and your expecta-

tions. If time permits, attend the open house that most schools host before the school year begins," he says.

"It's going to be a bigger adjustment for children who haven't been in a pre-school setting," says

Cathy Guttentag, Ph.D., a child psychologist at the Children's

Learning Institute. "They may have worries as well as excitement, and no worry should be trivialized.

"It's a good idea to start talking to your child about the daily routine at kindergarten. For instance, 'The teacher will be there to help you and show you where everything is. You'll have a desk or

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WULL Seniors Play for Championship Wednesday

West U. Little League's 16-year-old All Stars - The Texas East Region Champions - won their game against the Texas West champs 6-1 Monday night to advance to the finals in the regional Little League tournament.

They played Delmar Little League's team from Laredo, Tx., in the team's second game of the tourney.

Michael Resnick started with Stewart Cartwright in relief in the fifth, then John Williamson closed in the seventh. Ryan Farney went three for four at the plate, Travis Gauntt had two hits, Williamson ripped one with bases loaded for a triple and three RBIs.

Cole Lankford worked hard behind the plate, Harrison James at first,

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